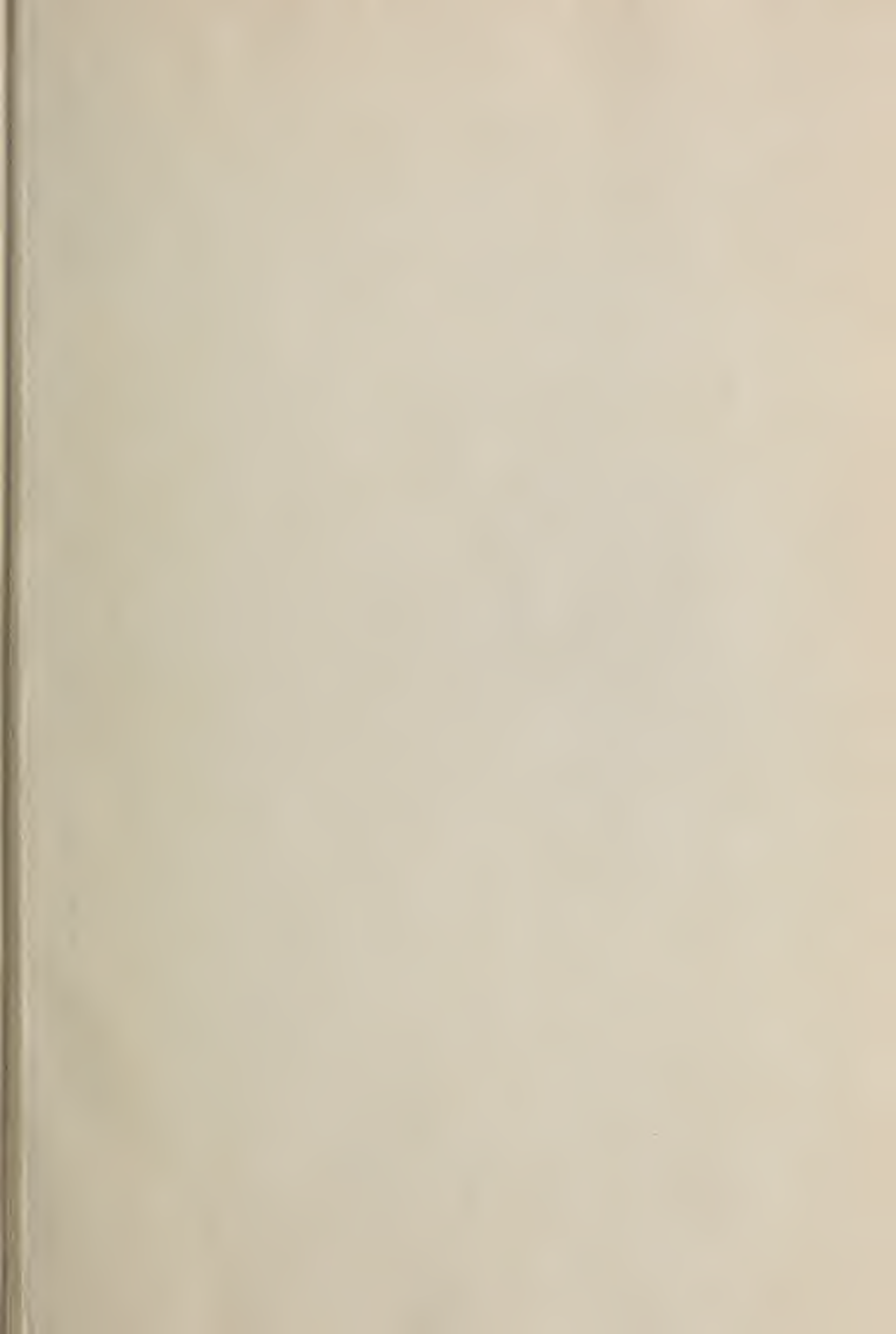



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MISSIONARY LETTERS AND NEWS

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The Arabian Mission.

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MISSIONARY LETTERS AND NEWS FROM ARABIA.

January—March, 1906.

MRS. ARTHUR K. BENNETT.

REV. J. E. MOERDYK.

A second time within less than a year of twelve months has God seen fit to take unto Himself a missionary from the Bahrein station.



Mrs. A. K. Bennett departed this life on the 21st of January, 1906. Sixteen days before her decease she was taken with a fever,

and it was two or three days later that the doctors diagnosed it as typhoid fever. She was a very sick woman from the very first day, but there was a time when everybody had great hopes that she would rally and make a sure recovery. But the Master planned otherwise and all bowed to say, "His will be done." The best of doctors and nurses could do no more for her. She passed on to a better abiding place. Mrs. Bennett left a message for the Board of Trustees of the Mission, and it is but fitting that this be passed on to the friends of the Mission and that they be told how she lived even as she preached. This is the message: "Tell the Board I am going to be a missionary up yonder and to send some one in my place."

Mrs. Bennett dedicated her life and ability to God's service, and it was only a matter of detail with her to learn where He would have her spend herself. She and her husband were led to volunteer for service in Arabia. She was a graduate of the Literary Department of the University of Michigan and had experience as a teacher in the schools of that State. Early in October, 1904, she was married to A. K. Bennett, M. D., whose helpmeet and companion she planned to be in the foreign field. A very few days after their marriage the husband sailed for Europe, where he was to spend some months in the study of French and the treatment of tropical diseases, and Mrs. Bennett sailed by a more direct route for Arabia to improve this time in the study of the language, and later to be stationed with her husband where the Mission might see fit to use them. She arrived in Bahrein early in November, 1904, with the Deputation who visited this station. Soon after the departure of the Deputation the study of Arabic was begun, and no one studied more faithfully and successfully. But she was not satisfied to spend all her time for self. In the early months of 1905 she taught English in the little Bahrein school, and later, when she got so that she could use a little Arabic, she visited the houses of the helpers and often those of the Arab women in company with the missionary in charge of that work. The women soon learned to know her and to love her. She took the name of Salaama, which was indicative of the peace which she had come to preach. She was an active attendant at the Arabic prayer meeting for women,

personally invited the women in, and almost always took part in the meeting. She was our organist at all the services in the station and in the Sunday School for children. We could not have done without her in the children's Christmas entertainment nor in the service at the laying of the corner stone of the new school and chapel. In December, 1905, she took her first examination in Arabic and passed with honor. Next, she planned for work in the new year and asked the Mission's permission to work along with the nurse in the dispensary for women, so that she might acquire the knowledge and skill which would prove useful in future work with her husband, and before the other missionaries had returned to their stations she was already visiting the hospital and ministering and preaching to the women patients. Her's was a very busy life. Her beautiful and lovable character endeared her to everybody, and all profited by her help because of her Christian spirit and her wisdom in and for the work. All the missionaries deeply feel the loss of this consecrated worker. As regards the future, we can but echo her last request that some one should be sent in her place.

WHAT WOULD YOU PRAY?

REV. JOHN VAN ESS.

If in the dreams of the night an angel messenger stood at your side and told you that you might ask one thing, and assured you that that would at once be given you, what would you ask? If only one prayer were still allowed you and you knew that prayer would be answered and that immediately and as you asked, what would you pray? Down in your heart of hearts, unseen by the gaze of men, locked up in the inmost chambers of your self, your personality, where are the springs of your life, where are born your ambitions, where are fostered your hopes, where sting most keenly your disappointments, from out that center what petition would arise to the Most High? Would it be for

I. *Anything personal?*

At first blush we might think that under the stress of tribulation, when one's horizon is bounded by the dark clouds of adversity, the one petition might be for deliverance personal and limited

to himself. It is easy to stand at a distance, and from some sun-lit peak bathed in the glories of God's smiling face, to pity the wayfarer in the vale below who with faltering step and downcast eyes sees naught but the rock and the thorn and the pitfall, and then to wonder at his sighing and his groans. You see the light, you see where the path winds and twists, yet you see too that same path though winding and twisting, yet leading to the summit where you stand. If I should listen to the groans and sighs and mark the tears of God's people, and should from them estimate the spiritual status of Christ's church on earth, I think I should not stay one hour longer on the mission field and should throw down in disgust the banner of the cross. It is not a fair criterion. As I write this I am on a river steamer going up the Tigris. The ship trembles, the engines wheeze, clouds of smoke whirl skyward and leave their train for miles back across the plains of Chaldea. Yet I must listen closely to hear the groaning of timbers, I must strain to catch the thump of the pistons, for it is all swallowed up and lost in the hissing and rushing of the waters as they are flung back by the churning paddles. Each tremor speaks of action, of power, of resistance and victory—the tremors are only incidents, the crunching of the timbers only a minor detail in the progress of the ship. Even the long train of smoke speaks of progress, it hides no stars above or ahead, it is forgotten, it does not hinder. Now it seems as if we shall crash into the bank. I think I should cut the curve short, yet the pilot knows that just where the bank turns in the channel, that the current which cuts the bank away also cuts the channel, and we glide away from the treacherous shoals. Were the ship tongued would it ask to be relieved of the groaning of its beams and timbers, or the roar of the paddles, or the volumes of steam and smoke that pour from the funnels, of all the signs of motion and life? It would ask nothing but to be always kept ready to stop or to start at the master's orders. So I do not listen to the groaning of God's people, and when I hear it, I pay no heed. I look at the banks and see the progress and take heart. No, I do not believe one of God's children would ever place a personal need above and before all others—I have too much confidence in Christ's church for that.

2. Perhaps in a burst of pity you would frame your prayer in a petition for more love to Christ. That it is sadly lacking in the church no one will doubt, that it is a desideratum none will deny, and yet is that our supreme need? Daily I meet Oriental Christians, Catholics, Armenians, Chaldeans, Syrians. With shame I say that in zeal and tenacity of faith they far outclass our Protestants. It may be mistaken zeal and misguided faith—I would not vouch for much of our zeal and faith as it is sometimes displayed. But the Oriental Christian loves Christ, and he means it and shows it; I cannot doubt his sincerity. What is the result? Bigotry and superstition. You see it is not enough.

3. Perhaps then you might pray for God's Kingdom to come speedily. Surely in praying for that you cannot be far wrong you think. We pray it daily, we long for the final consummation, we are taught to do so. This ship day after day points her prow to Bagdad, and yet could she speak, would she ask to break her owner's program and be transported bodily from Busrah to Bagdad in an hour? Then how would the passengers from the intermediate ports embark? Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, yet how and when Thou wilt. I ask no millennial dawn to usher in the new era. "I believe in the Holy Ghost," and back of His program I dare not peer, nor would I if I could.

4. What then would you pray? For one thing, my supreme need, as a man, as a Christian and as a missionary, *that the church might realize her position*. Read Mott's book, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation," if you would get at least some idea of what could be done by a live church awake to the opportunities. Is it God's fault that a large part of the world is still heathen? Is it the world's fault? Only then when every Christian shall feel the burden of a lost world on *his* shoulder shall all needs be met.

OUR LAST ANNUAL MEETING.

REV. JAS. E. MOERDYK.

The regular annual meeting of the Mission is again in the past. The missionaries assembled for business and conference at Bahrein station, and all the missionaries on the field were present excepting

Mrs. Barny and Mrs. Worrall. This meeting is usually held during the first month of the year, but this year it was held late in December by request of the Busrah missionaries so that they might take advantage of through steamers and so lessen the time and difficulties of traveling. It will probably interest our readers to know about this gathering and we shall write to you in two paragraphs: (1) About the meetings in particular. (2) About other happenings.

Fourteen days were devoted to business and conference. Two business sessions were held daily, and nine evenings were devoted to meetings for prayer and study. Three papers were presented by members of the Mission on subjects closely related to our work, and each paper was followed by discussion; all the missionaries were free to ask questions or to remark upon the subject in hand. Sunday meetings were three in number open to the Arabic brethren, and the evening was for the missionaries only. What a treat it was to join in Sunday services with so many in the audience of the same mind and purpose! If it is a treat to attend the services usual at Classical gatherings and at the meeting of Synod, how much more so out here where because we are few in number and facilities for communication are poor we seem far separated and forsaken. The large numbers of worshippers and the spirit of devotion and joy made one forget about the smaller gatherings during the year and about the spirit of discontent and opposition so prevalent among those for whom we work, and the memory of these Sabbaths will cheer us in the work in the new year. There were also daily meetings in company with the Arabic brethren. The usual Arabic morning prayers were converted into half-hour prayer meetings. Missionaries and helpers took turns in leading these meetings, and they were well attended by both the adults and children in the station. At the regular sessions reports from the different stations always receive special attention. The different stations not only submit reports upon the work during the past year, but outline plans for the new year; and this is followed by discussion and additional information so that all may become acquainted with the work as far as this is possible even though they do not belong to the station under discussion.

Muscat station had a very encouraging report about the suc-

cess of the past year and the promise of greater success in the future. For the first time since the station was opened there has been a regularly established day school. And from the very first the attendance has been good and the children have been remarkably faithful during the year. For a time the missionaries taught alone, but later a teacher was engaged so that he could give all his time to this work and the missionaries could attend to other work which needed attention. There seems to be promise of a large field for work among the children and through them in the families which they represent. The work of Bible distribution has again been very encouraging. The helper continues to be the friend of the Arabs of the town and of those from the districts round about. He has made several trips during the year and one of these was in a locality not reached before. His Arab friends tried to discourage this visit and seemed to be very much concerned about his safety, but he persisted and succeeded in getting the sheikhs to give him companions. The outcome of the trip was all in favor of the faithful colporteur and he succeeded in convincing the Arabs that a messenger of peace need fear no evil or harm at the hands of the worst of men. Not a few of the Arabs of these districts oftentimes visit the town of Muscat and the missionary and helper have arranged to meet these men and have opportunity to influence them. A sort of Arab guest-house has been opened where they can stay for the night and have a home and friends while in the town. There have been several Moslems of the town who have visited the Sunday services in the mission house and some of these have become interested and begun to inquire into the teachings of the Bible. One or two of these promise to become true inquirers.

Busrah station's report was largely taken up with the work of the outstations. This work had the constant attention of a missionary. The outstations have not only been visited as heretofore, but the missionary lived there for a month or more at a time. Friends were won in the different places and these invited the missionary to come and stay among them. This will not be possible now, but there is abundant reason to be sure of a friendly reception in the months to come, and as soon as a missionary can be spared to live there. The results of the work during the past year are not

such as can be named and published, but there were many who came to the missionary for information and a few who were more than inquisitive and sought earnest conversation and advice. It is very difficult for these inquirers to get at the missionary for fear of suspicion and detection. Even in Busrah this is difficult and many of the friends in the outstations who when visiting the station would like to call upon the missionary dare not. But not withstanding all these difficulties there are several who succeed and this is encouraging to all concerned. The station has one very earnest inquirer who is constantly living in fear of detection and is very often persecuted when acquaintances suspect his motives in visiting the mission house. He is receiving regular instruction and the missionary reports very favorably about his progress and about his faithfulness notwithstanding temptation and persecution. The medical work in this station has been very successful and large numbers have been reached through this. Not only have the sick been treated and preached to in the daily dispensaries for men and women, but many who were in-patients in the house-hospital so successfully opened and operated during the past year. Quite a few of these patients have afterwards been visited in their homes and thus the message has been brought to others.

Bahrein station reported continued encouragement. Because of plague which again prevailed during the greater part of the summer the field for activity was somewhat limited, but all the work which was possible was prosecuted to the best advantage. The little school for girls and boys has held its own. Quite a few of the Arab children have attended and although this number is not as large as we should like, yet there seems to be promise of a larger attendance if we can have the perseverance and patience which will always tell in this kind of work. We feel sure that we are gaining the confidence of the people and perhaps the new school building so soon to be completed will help to arouse a desire for learning among the children. One tour to the mainland proved a failure. The authorities prevented any work and took possession of all books until the return of the visitor to his own town. But a second tour to a different locality proved more successful. This tour had the services of one of the doctors of the station and several towns along

the coast were visited and the Word planted in them. It is encouraging to know that the Scriptures which have been sold and distributed before in these places have been read, and that the people are becoming familiar with their contents. Several came to ask for portions of Scripture by name. They would ask for the book of Genesis, for the story of Mary, for the story of Joseph, for the Proverbs of Solomon, etc. The medical work of the station has been very encouraging, for not only were the numbers of patients at the dispensaries and in-patients in the hospital large, but there were many among them who showed remarkable interest in the preaching and in Bible instruction to the patients in the wards. After listening to the above named encouragements from reports we were more than cheered by a communication from the Board of Trustees in New York stating that the Board had authorized the appointment of four new missionaries for Arabia. The time will soon be at hand when we shall be ready to occupy new stations. Some of the outstations as we have seen above could now be occupied to advantage. The Oman field long ago asked for a doctor and the opportunities now are larger than ever. True, the Board insists that the support of these new missionaries must be raised by syndicates over and above the usual gifts of the churches, but we feel sure that when the church realizes how great are the opportunities and encouragements for the future it will not hesitate to provide the means for the workers ready for appointment. The Mission adopted suitable resolutions expressing its approval and pleasure at the Board's action and outlining a plan for the increase of native workers to support the wider work of the missionaries.

It is not very often that so many missionaries happen together on Christmas day. I might risk the statement that this has not happened in Arabia since the very first years of the Mission and it is not likely that it will be repeated very often. Every one voted to make the day a regular old-fashioned holiday, and so we did. All regular work was laid aside and every one busied himself to make the day merry. Divine services of the Sabbath which had just passed had been appropriate to the time of Christmas, but the day was not without its share of special services. In the morning we all gathered at the new chapel and school then building to participate

in the services in connection with laying of the cornerstone. This was one of the few open air meetings that have been held in Arabia. The Arabs, citizens of the place, did not attend in large numbers although quite a number of those living near or happening to pass that way stopped to listen and see what it meant; but all of the Europeans of the place, and all of the Christians with their children were present and joined in the service. The program was simple but appropriate. There was no collection taken, but all present united in the prayers and other testimony, thus expressing their hopes that the building might be successfully completed and equipped for the work for which it is intended. In the afternoon all attended the Christmas entertainment of the Sunday School. The waiting-room at the hospital had been nicely decorated and all the chairs in the station arranged round the room for the visitors. The children of the school were given seats near the organ and all visitors were seated where they could see and listen to the little songs and declamations. The program contained two English declamations by pupils of the day school, and I need hardly add that the boys were very proud of their newly acquired proficiency in this language. After the program refreshments were served to all present and the time was spent in pleasant conversation and other things which belong to the social program at such a gathering. The evening was passed at the mission house, where missionaries and invited guests spent the time pleasantly and perhaps profitably. There were several days after the final adjournment of the Mission before the possible departure of the visiting missionaries. Those days were not wasted. One was given to recreation, which also had its opportunities for a little missionary work. Quite a party of those who felt strong enough and so inclined set out on donkeys to visit one of the towns inland not far away from the mission settlement. After arriving at the town and visiting with the Arabs who had turned out to see us, we partook of a picnic lunch out in the open. Before returning we had quite a gathering in one of the houses of the place where there was opportunity for conversation and reading from the Bible. When finally a steamer appeared in the harbor in which the visitors had planned to return to their stations there was disappointment in store for them. The steamer

had run aground upon a sand bank in the harbor and after two days aboard of her when everybody was expecting that she would soon float and proceed on her way, our friends thought it wise to return to us, where they would be more comfortable. They were delayed for a whole week before the steamer finally got afloat and ready to proceed to Busrah. This last experience illustrates how little your missionaries can plan their trips and how much valuable time they have to spend in traveling to and from their work, and also illustrates how far our stations are from each other.

REPORT OF WOMEN'S MEDICAL WORK,
BUSRAH, 1905.

MRS. E. H. WORRALL, M. D.

Truly we can say the good hand of our God has been with us. The opportunities have been so many and so varied, and the number brought under the influence of the gospel so increased that we praise God with full hearts and are encouraged to go forward. But I sadly feel my inability to follow up the precious opportunities. Many, many homes would be opened to us had we the time and strength to visit them, but by the time patients are served in the dispensary and home duties attended to, I feel I have no time left for outside work. In fact home duties have often to be seemingly neglected in order that all of the poor suffering women and children may be helped. We trust our Father to make up to us whatever we lose in this way, and we know He does, for it is a great privilege to be able to reach out beyond the home and help those who have so little and suffer so much. It is in the nature of this work that at times it seems to demand more than one has to give. We do long to do all we can and the very best we can, for He who has called us is faithful.

I was sorry to have to be away some months during the Summer, but Dr. Worrall kept up the women's dispensary during my absence, so it did not suffer much in consequence. In the Spring when the numbers increased, Dr. Worrall offered to take all the eye cases, and I gladly consented. The number treated each morning has been from eighteen to ninety. Many who come need opera-

tions, but fear this and do not come again. This year more have yielded and have been successfully operated on than in former years so there is every reason for expecting still more in the future.

In April, Jasmine, the cousin of our language teacher, began speaking to the women in the dispensary, coming three days a week. I took two days and Miss Scardifield one. The women all love Jasmine very much, and of course we know that they understand her talk to them more than they do ours. She is thoroughly in love with her work, so eager and enthusiastic, but she cannot be spared from her home more than three days a week for she lives so far away. While I was away we asked the family to move into the hospital house, and so Jasmine taught the women every day. We have been able to make up her salary from private donations on the field, and a special gift of fifteen dollars collected by Mrs. Zwemer in America for Jasmine's work.

During the Summer months we could not use the rooms of the hospital house for in-patients on account of the heat. We found it unsafe to keep them upstairs through the heat of the day, and we could not expect the servants to be willing to carry many patients to the roof at night and to the basement at noonday. We have been so thankful for nurse Mary. We could not have taken in-patients except for her, as I had not the strength to look after them. While she has not become proficient enough in Arabic to teach the patients much spiritually, still she has taught them the "Lord's Prayer" and "Jesus loves me," and is able to make herself pretty well understood.

Early in the year we found it almost impossible to get a woman for sweeper's work in the hospital. The slave women were the only ones who would come, and usually left after a day or two. We finally sent to Bombay for a woman and her husband to attend to the hospital and both dispensaries. They are Christians, as are all the other servants, except the door keeper.

We trust that there may be some appropriation made for hospital appliances this year. We have had to manage with wooden couches and native beds, as we had no other. Our supply of sheets, towels and bedding is very small indeed, and we especially need quilts and blankets for the cold weather, which is often very trying.

THE BOYS OF THE FREED SLAVE SCHOOL.

REV. JAMES CANTINE.

The time was when the freed slave school held the most prominent part in the Muscat station reports, though of late it has seldom been mentioned. This time however I wish to bring the story of the boys up-to-date, knowing that many of our friends took a lively interest in them when they were in our school, and feeling sure that they will welcome some further knowledge of those whom they helped with their prayers and their gifts.

Perhaps there may be a few of my readers who do not know or who do not remember that it was in 1896 that eighteen little black boys, from seven to eleven, taken from an Arab slaver by an English gunboat, were landed at Muscat and turned over to our missionary by the British Consul to be cared for and educated. That missionary, Rev. Peter Zwemer, gave at once a very large place in his heart to these little waifs, cowed and stupid, sick and diseased as they were when they came on shore. Assuming a personal responsibility for their support which might easily have caused one of weaker faith to hesitate, and giving himself unreservedly to the cause of their upliftment and Christianization, even to the day of his death, we can easily say that whatever the boys may now have of Christian manhood is due largely to his zeal and wisdom.

The agreement with the British Consul was that the boys should be fed, clothed and taught until they were sixteen, or old enough to go out into the world and earn their own living. Many of them were supported by individuals or societies, and the interest in this work, so providentially given to us, was widespread, and lasted until the school was disbanded. There were no other slave boys brought to Muscat, and these gradually grew up and went out into positions found for them, the better we may believe for the Christian care and instruction they had received for from four to six years. My purpose in this article is to tell something of the after life of these boys, so far as it has come to my knowledge.

Of the original eighteen, four are dead. Two died at Muscat, one of cholera and the other from the effects of a fall. *Samuel*, the oldest boy, died on board an English gunboat at Colombo and

Peter on a troop ship in South Africa. We trust that they all are with their old master.

Many, though not all of the boys, have kept up a scattering correspondence with me, and I have a fairly good idea of what is happening to them. At first we found positions for them as do-



SOLOMON.

mestic servants in Christian families, where two of them still are. But most of them considered the world at large too attractive, and are now pretty well scattered. A favorite position for them to aspire to was that of a deckhand on an English gunboat. The company of some of their own people, the life and the stir were what they liked, and the strict discipline I presume was very good for them.

Here are now three of the oldest: *James, Solomon and Thomas.* James I saw on shore here a few months ago and scarcely recognized him with his manly stature and neat blue uniform. He was a



ADRIAN.

wild and unruly boy at times, but he spent many months in a family of excellent Christian people in India, who interested themselves greatly in his welfare, and I hope that now their prayers are being answered and that he is sincere and real in his confession. He writes from Bombay: "Here in Bombay some of our boys come

every day to have a pray to God at my house according to Bible which you taught us at mission house, Muscat. We pray to God that God may keep our missionaries and we do remember what our father, Rev. P. J. Zwemer, who die in New York, America. said:



HENRY.

‘I will go and tell Jesus about my boys.’ And here we pray to God every day.” The boys frequently refer to Mr. Zwemer, and I think appreciate what he did for them. Perhaps there is no more powerful influence drawing them heavenward in faith and in conduct, than that their old master is there now waiting to meet them.

Solomon, who has been on the flagship of the East India station for several years, has a nice Christian home of his own at Bombay, to which he goes when he is on shore. He often writes and keeps us informed of his movements and always wants to know about



STEPHEN.

what is happening at Muscat. In one of his letters he writes: "Don't you think I have forget the Christian religion, but I am still with the Christians. I have got my Bible with me and the song book, too, so you need not be afraid of me, I with Jesus and Jesus with me," and again: "Please, sir, don't you try to forget

about me. I am still your own boy William H. Solomon of the Arabian Mission on the mission field, only pray for me that I may grow up to be a faithful in Christ and in the Christian navy." The English composition of the boys is rather shaky, but their hearts seem to be in it. Here is another specimen: "Colombo, East Indies. Dear Sir.—My dear, I have received your kind letter which have reached to me in gladness and thanks to you, sir, and thank you very much for it and I am quite well in good health all the same to you all and as I am keeping on in my health. But I never forget you, sir, I am keeping on thinking of you all in the field. How you so hard in your labor works of the Arabian Mission and labor with hard work for those Arabies and I am doing on well in my health." Solomon, the writer of the above, generally signs himself "Yrs. sincerful old Boy, Mr. William H. Solomon of the R. C. A."

Two other boys, *Alfred* and *George*, are on merchant steamers running between India and England, but I have not heard from them personally. *Philip*, who for years was with one of our missionary families at Bahrein, has just passed through on his way to India. He has saved quite a little sum from his wages, and I think will do well wherever he goes. *Nathan* and *Isaac*, the former of whom was never very bright, are in Bombay, though what they are doing I do not know. I have heard rumors that they have turned Moslems, but I trust this is not true. *Joseph*, who perhaps caused us more worry when in the school than any other boy, has for years been a servant in a Christian family in Bombay, and I infer that he is living a straight life. *John* was last heard of at Zanzibar, and *David* on his way to Australia. *Adrian*, the youngest of the number, has been for some time at the industrial school of the American Board at Ahmeduagar, India, supported by friends in America. The principal writes that he is not at all dull and is making good progress in his chosen trade, carpentering. Several of the boys have been for a longer or shorter time at this school, but only *Adrian* has remained long enough to attain any proficiency in manual training. From his letters I gather that he is contented and soon will be in a position to earn his own living. The industrial school of our own church at Arni was too far away

for us to send any of our boys there, in fact, there were only two or three of the boys who developed any fondness or ability for a special trade.

Two of the boys are still at Muscat, *Henry* and *Stephen*. Henry has always been somewhat deaf, which has prevented his learning to speak as plainly as the others. It has been difficult to find a place for him, and on this account he has remained in the mission house until the present. He is a good, faithful worker, and were it not for his disability would make his way easily in the world. Stephen for a long time has been working in the English dispensary here. The physician in charge says he has picked up a good working knowledge of his business and should get along well in the future. Both of them attend our religious services regularly, and are especially good in their knowledge of Scripture.

As to the spiritual condition of the boys one should surely hope for the best. We know how easy it is in the East to get a fervid profession of faith, and how it is only after years of discipleship that we can really depend upon our converts, and yet much in many of these boys seems to ring true. And when we consider what has been done for them by the Master and by His servants here and how they have been and constantly are being brought before the Lord in prayer, we surely doubt not that many of them are now freed in truth through Christ who has redeemed them.

FIRST DAYS AT BAHREIN.

MRS. MARTHA C. VOGEL.

After some delays on my journey from London to Bombay, I arrived safely and in perfect health at Bahrein, where I was warmly welcomed by all our missionaries and native Christians. I could not feel otherwise but at home, with all the cheerful faces around me, and as it was on a Sunday that I arrived, I had a good chance to begin work on Monday morning and I was anxious to see the hospital and to assist in the work there.

Miss Lutton, who had done all the bandaging on the women's side for the past months, introduced me to the patients and it was

sometimes comical to hear the women express their opinions about me. I have visited the hospital since then daily, with a few exceptions, and until our dear sister, Mrs. Bennett, took sick two weeks ago. We all felt that she needed the closest attention and I was glad to be able to make her sickbed as bearable as possible. Just a few days before she took to her bed she had arranged to go with me every morning to the hospital to help to dress wounds. Little we thought then that the Lord wanted her to come home so soon. Those few days she worked side by side with me have become precious to my memory.

Time seems to fly in Bahrein just as quickly as in New York City. Our lives here are full with hustle and bustle. Christmas was enjoyed especially because our missionaries from Busrah and Muscat were present on account of the annual meeting. This also gave me the opportunity to get acquainted with nearly all the missionaries from the different stations.

I look back and see that the two months I have been here have been full of events and have passed quickly, and with—great joy—and—great sorrow.

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the man in Libby's cell

